

# **New York State Statewide COVID-19 Reinfection Data OVERVIEW**

**Office of Public Health**

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**Health Data NY**

## **General Description:**

This dataset reports the number of reinfections in New York State since January 2021. A reinfection is when a person becomes infected with COVID and later becomes infected again. A person is considered a reinfection if they test positive again 90 days or more after their first positive test. The goal of this dataset is to provide users timely information about the trends in reinfections in New York State. This dataset is created by the New York State Department of Health from data reported to Electronic Clinical Laboratory Reporting System (ECLRS).

While reinfections have historically been rare, the number increased in late 2021, as the Omicron variant emerged in New York State. The presence of the Omicron variant as well as future variants of concern reinforces the need to closely track the full burden of disease. This dataset is updated weekly and include specimens collected and reported to the Department through the designated “as of” date.

Additional information can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/vaccine-induced-immunity.html>

## **Data Methodology:**

Reporting of SARS-CoV2 laboratory testing results is mandated under Part 2 of the New York State Sanitary Code. Clinical laboratories, as defined in Public Health Law (PHL) § 571 electronically report test results to the NYSDOH via the Electronic Clinical Laboratory Reporting System (ECLRS). The NYSDOH Division of Epidemiology’s Bureau of Surveillance and Data System (BSDS) monitors the reporting and ensures that all positives and negatives are accurately counted. To determine person level testing, ECLRS data were matched with the use of a deterministic algorithm on the basis of first name, last name, and date of birth to find all instances of an individual’s positive test result. Both PCR and antigen laboratory tests are included in this calculation; specimen lineage is currently not a factor. Out of state residents are excluded.

A positive result is to be deemed a repeat positive if it meets either of the following criteria:

- It has been 90 days since the first positive result for the person, regardless of whether or not the person had a positive test between the two results.
- It has been 90 days since the repeat positive result for the person, regardless of whether or not the person had a positive test between the two results.

## **Limitations of Use:**

The SARS-CoV2 laboratory test result data on this site reflects the best information available to NYSDOH at the time the data is posted. NYSDOH is receiving reports containing large amounts of data from hospital and clinical laboratories across the state and nation. This data sometimes contains minor errors; however, this express reporting provides the benefit of current and timely situational awareness. All estimates in this dataset are preliminary and subject to change. In order to confirm that two positive tests were at least 90 days apart, the dates of these events must be evaluated, as opposed to the dates these cases were reported to NYSDOH. Because of this requirement and ongoing data submissions within the database, it is expected that

historical estimates may need minor changes as this dataset is updated to provide a timely snapshot of the epidemic.